UNITED
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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/50/822
18 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 166

ADMISSION OF THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 77th plenary meeting, on 1 December 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session an additional item entitled "Admission of the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 40th meeting, on 14 December 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.40).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on admission of the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/C.5/50/34).

4. At its 40th meeting, on 14 December, on the oral proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it admit the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (see para. 5).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

5. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

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READEX FICHE best copy available

Admission of the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

The General Assembly decides to admit the World Tourism Organization to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, in accordance with article 3 of the Regulations of the Fund, with effect from 1 January 1996.

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A/50/823
18 December 1995
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 116 and 96 (d)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in part IV of its report (A/50/618/Add.3, para. 7)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 41st meeting, on 17 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/39) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" contained in the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.3, para. 7). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/50/SR.41).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.41).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it decide that the conference-servicing costs of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies should be met from the regular budget, the related costs are estimated at $3,522,200 at full cost. The actual amount required under section 26E, Conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the

biennium 1996-1997, including the need for additional appropriation, will be considered by the General Assembly at its resumed session in 1996 on the basis of revised estimates by the Secretary-General. Such an appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 122 (b)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled:

"Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East:

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon"

and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/543) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/50/694).

3. The Committee considered the item at its 26th and 41st meetings, on 10 November and 17 December 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.26 and 41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/50/L.11

4. At the 41st meeting, on 17 December, the representative of Latvia introduced and orally amended a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/50/L.11), submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.11 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was Council resolution 1006 (1995) of 28 July 1995,

Recalling its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which were resolution 49/226 of 23 December 1994 and decision 49/483 of 12 July 1995,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 34/9 E of 17 December 1979 and the subsequent resolutions in which it decided that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b),

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1/ A/50/543.

2/ A/50/694.

5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations should be suspended, the latest of which was resolution 49/226,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have been used up for meeting expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions and have consequently been exhausted,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 13 December 1995, including the contributions unpaid in the amount of 216,216,752 United States dollars, representing 9 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 31 January 1996, notes that some 22 per cent of the membership has paid its assessed contributions in full and urges all other Member States concerned, particularly those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peace-keeping activities, particularly as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, notably those troop-contributing Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, which bear an additional burden, owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Force promptly and in full;

4. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

5. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

6. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 67,407,000 United States dollars gross (65,224,980 dollars net) authorized and apportioned by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 49/226 for the operation of the Force from 1 August 1995 to 31 January 1996, inclusive;

7. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the Force at a rate not to exceed 10,774,800 dollars gross (10,489,600 dollars net) per month for a period of up to five months beginning 1 February 1996, and to assess the amount of 32,324,400 dollars gross (31,468,800 dollars net) on Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 1006 (1995);

8. Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount referred to in paragraph 7 above among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991 and 47/218 A of 23 December 1992 and its decision 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1996, 3/ subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 January 1996 and the mandate periods to be decided upon by the Council;

9. Decides also that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the estimated income of 4,800 dollars other than staff assessment income for the period from 1 February to 30 April 1996, inclusive;

10. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 850,800 dollars for the period from 1 February to 30 April 1996, inclusive;

11. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

12. Decides to keep the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East" under review during its fiftieth session.

3/ See resolution 49/19 B.

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18 December 1995
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 116 and 20 (d)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.60

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 41st meeting, on 17 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/42) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.60. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/50/SR.41).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.41).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/50/L.60, an appropriation not exceeding $2,684,400 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An appropriation not exceeding $269,200 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The appropriation would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

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18 December 1995
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 116 and 45

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 41st meeting, on 17 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/36) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/50/SR.41).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.41).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1, an appropriation not exceeding $320,300 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An appropriation not exceeding $60,900 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The appropriation would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

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UNITED
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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/50/827
18 December 1995
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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 131

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 41st meeting, on 17 December 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.41).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (A/50/722 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/50/802).

4. At its 41st meeting, on 17 December, on the oral proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus" (see para. 5).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

5. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

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Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/ endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, and in particular, paragraph 41 thereof.

1/ A/50/722.

2/ A/50/802.

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General Assembly

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A/50/828
18 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 137

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/749) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/50/802).

3. The Committee considered the item at its 41st meeting, on 17 December. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT DECISION PRESENTED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN

4. At the 41st meeting, on 17 December, the Chairman presented orally a draft decision on the financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, which was amended by the representative of the Netherlands.

5. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

(a) Decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their future apportionments their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 378,600 United States dollars gross (373,800 dollars net) for the period from 16 December 1994 to 16 June 1995;

(b) Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 378,600 dollars gross (373,800 dollars net) for the period from 16 December 1994 to 16 June 1995 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations.

1/ A/50/749.

2/ A/50/802.

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General Assembly
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S/1995/1041
18 December 1995
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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 70 (j), 71 (b) and 81
REGIONAL DISARMAMENT
REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 14 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the press release signed in Quito on 14 December 1995 by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru on the occasion of the re-establishment of the Bilateral Diplomatic Consultative Mechanism between the countries.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 70 (j), 71 (b) and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release

Pursuant to the agreements contained in the Brasilia Declaration of 6 October 1995 and at the invitation of the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Mr. Marcelo Fernández de Córdoba, the Deputy Minister of International Policy and the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Mr. Jorge Voto Bernales, visited Quito on 14 December 1995 for the purpose of resuming consideration of topics related to good-neighbourly relations and cooperation and re-establishing the Bilateral Diplomatic Consultative Mechanism.

In the course of the talks, the Deputy Ministers reviewed the progress that had been made in the peace process and underscored the efforts to achieve a climate of normality and détente in relations between the two countries.

At the same time, the Deputy Ministers emphasized the importance of the meeting between the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Ministers for Foreign Affairs to be held in Lima in January 1996, which reflects the firm commitment of the two Governments to continue to strengthen the peace process and begin talks on ways of implementing paragraph 6 of the Itamaraty Declaration.

The Deputy Ministers announced that, at their meeting in Lima, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs would also discuss the question of arms acquisition by the two countries.

They expressed their appreciation for the effective contribution of the Guarantor Countries and the activities carried out by the Military Observer Mission, as well as their satisfaction with the decision to extend the Mission in order to enable it to continue to support the consolidation of the peace process.

The Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of the Diplomatic Consultative Mechanism as a valuable instrument for promoting cooperation in all aspects of their relations as neighbours. They agreed on the terms of the notes that will be exchanged between the Governments of Ecuador and Peru with a view to establishing the Commission on Good-Neighbourly Relations, which will be chaired by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru and composed of high-level representatives of the public and private sectors of the two countries.

They also considered the priority issues that the Commission will deal with, and reviewed the following draft agreements that will be signed in the near future by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru:

- Cooperation in the field of health;
- Cooperation in cases of natural disasters;
- Protection of cultural heritage;

- Recognition of academic qualifications.

At the conclusion of his visit, the Deputy Minister of Peru expressed his thanks for the warm welcome he had received and invited his Ecuadorian counterpart to the next meeting of the Bilateral Diplomatic Consultative Mechanism, to be held in Lima during the first half of 1996.

Quito, 14 December 1995

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/50/830
19 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 66

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 15 December 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from His Excellency Mr. Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 66.

(Signed) Ali Sunni MUNTASSER
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

We have studied the reply received from the Israeli Government to your report entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" and have found it to contain sophisms and unfounded accusations directed against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. We should therefore like to respond with corrections to the sophisms and distortions of the truth that appear in the Israeli reply in document A/50/325/Add.1:

> "Unfortunately, at this time, several regional States are still in a formal state of war with Israel. Moreover, large regional States such as Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya still refuse to foreswear war as a means of settling disputes and attempt to impede the peace process by means of terror, violent activities and subversion, directly or indirectly."

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and is bound by its provisions. It is also a party to a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and places all its nuclear power related facilities under Agency safeguards. The Zionist entity, on the other hand, persists in its refusal to become a party to the Treaty, to conclude any agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency or to place its nuclear installations under Agency safeguards, despite United Nations resolutions requesting all States to become parties to the Treaty and the report of the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which emphasized the same issue.

2. The Israeli assertion that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya refuses to foreswear war as a means of settling disputes is an empty claim completely unrelated to the truth, since the Jamahiriya constantly endeavours to resolve its disputes with other countries by peaceful means and through international channels. For example, we had recourse to the International Court of Justice with regard to disputes with our neighbours Tunisia, Chad and Malta and accepted its rulings without hesitation.

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya rejects the Israeli accusation that it is attempting to impede the peace process by means of terror, violent activities and subversion. The Jamahiriya rejects terrorism in all its forms, and particularly State terrorism, which is practised by the Zionist entity against the whole Palestinian people. With regard to the issue of peace in the Middle East, the Jamahiriya is in principle in favour of peace, but it should be a just and comprehensive peace which guarantees the Palestinian people its right to self-determination and to establish an independent State on all the Palestinian territory. There can be no peace in the region unless those fundamentals are taken into consideration, along the lines of what was done in South Africa.

4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has supported from the outset the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and even demands that the region be free of all kinds of weapons of

mass destruction. Similarly, it considers that linking the establishment of the zone with comprehensive peace, and in the Israeli manner, would in fact be a way of evading it, since the removal of nuclear weapons from the region is the cornerstone of peace. It is impossible to imagine a peace where one of the parties is in possession of such weapons. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya therefore considers that the time has come for pressure to be put on the Zionist entity, in order to persuade it to become a party to the Treaty and to agree that its nuclear installations should be placed under Agency safeguards.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa MUNTASSER
Secretary of the
General People's Committee for
Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

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General Assembly

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A/50/831
18 December 1995
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 116 and 96 (a)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption by the Second Committee in its report (A/50/618/Add.1, para. 20)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 41st meeting, on 17 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/43) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21" contained in the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.1, para. 20). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/50/SR.41).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.41).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in its report (A/50/618/Add.1, para. 20), an additional appropriation not to exceed the amount of $197,400 would be required under sections 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, and 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable

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Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. The appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/50/832
19 December 1995
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 116 and 110

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.61

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 42nd meeting, on 18 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/46) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.61. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/50/SR.42).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.42).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.61, no additional appropriation would be required under section 21, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 at the present stage.

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A/50/833
S/1995/1048
19 December 1995
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ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 28 and 92
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA
THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 18 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the declaration concerning the former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Council on 16 December 1995.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the declaration to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 28 and 92, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on the former Yugoslavia

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia remains the most difficult test for the transition from a divided Europe to a new Europe based on shared values of democracy, tolerance and respect for human rights. The European Council welcomes with the greatest of satisfaction, as a major step, the signing of the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Paris on 14 December 1995.

The establishment of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina represents an extremely important step forward, not only for the peoples of the former Yugoslavia but also for the international community as a whole. The European Council pays homage to those who have helped to achieve that result through their efforts, their solidarity and their resolve. In this connection it welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of the resolution giving its support to the peace agreements signed in Paris and implementing their provisions in both civilian and military respects.

It is now for the parties to shoulder their responsibilities in fully implementing the agreement in order to bring an end to the war once and for all.

The European Council reaffirms the European Union's willingness to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of the positions stated in the Council conclusions of 30 October and 4 December 1995. The European Council endorses the conclusions of the London Conference and considers it necessary for the structures established to be set in place as soon as possible.

For the immediate future, the European Council sets the following priorities:

(a) It affirms the importance and the urgency of the successor States to the former Yugoslavia recognizing one another;

(b) It expresses its concern at the state of uncertainty currently affecting the Serb population of Sarajevo. It reminds the authorities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina of their responsibility to take the necessary steps so that Sarajevo as a whole can live in safety and restore multi-ethnic coexistence;

(c) It repeats that the European Union is ready to make a contribution to the implementation of the civilian aspects of the peace agreement. It appeals to the international community also to contribute to that effort as part of equitable burden-sharing;

(d) It reaffirms the European Union's willingness to continue its humanitarian effort in the former Yugoslavia as long as is necessary. It also reaffirms the right of refugees and displaced persons to return freely and

safely to their homes throughout the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to obtain fair compensation as a fundamental right;

(e) It points to the importance of an urgent solution to the problem in Eastern Slavonia for the entire peace process in the region. It accordingly calls on the parties to continue negotiations in accordance with the basic agreement for the region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. It asks the United Nations Security Council to ensure the full implementation of that agreement by adopting a feasible mandate based on the establishment of an effective provisional administration and the deployment of a credible international force equipped with sufficient resources.

While noting the historic importance of the successes achieved in recent weeks, the European Council is fully aware of the magnitude of the task still to be carried out. This is not the time to relax our efforts; on the contrary, it is necessary to show perseverance and courage. The European Council will continue to work in that spirit.

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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 159

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Human resources management" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 40th and 42nd meetings, on 14 and 18 December 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.40 and 42).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/50/540);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on submission of a list of staff of the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/50/L.2);

(c) Note submitted by the Secretary-General on behalf of and with the approval of the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations (A/C.5/50/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Rules (A/C.5/50/32);

(e) Reports of the Secretary-General on the reform of the internal system of justice in the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/49/60 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1, A/C.5/50/2 and Add.1);

(f) Ninth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the reform of the internal system of justice in the United Nations Secretariat (A/50/7/Add.8).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS PRESENTED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN

4. At the 42nd meeting, on 18 December, the Committee adopted a procedural decision, proposed by the Chairman, to take note of the amendments to the 100 and 200 series of the Staff Rules contained in document A/C.5/50/32, annex (see para. 6, draft decision I).

5. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Fifth Committee adopted a draft decision also proposed by the Chairman, to defer consideration of the item to the resumed fiftieth session (see para. 6, draft decision II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Amendments to the Staff Rules

The General Assembly takes note of the amendments to the 100 and 200 series of the Staff Rules contained in document A/C.5/50/32.

DRAFT DECISION II

Human resources management

The General Assembly decides to defer consideration of the item to the resumed fiftieth session, in particular, the reports of the Secretary-General on the reform of the internal system of justice in the United Nations Secretariat, 1/ pending consideration of the legal implications of the proposal of the Secretary-General.

1/ A/C.5/49/60 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1, and A/C.5/50/2 and Add.1.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 28
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 20 December 1995 from the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We should be grateful if you would have the attached text of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Joint Cooperation Council among the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed in Paris, France on 14 December 1995 by President Franjo Tudjman, President of the Presidency Alija Izetbegovic, and President Kresimir Zubak respectively, circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council (see annex).

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires of the
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
to the United Nations

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative of the
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Croatia
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Agreement on the Establishment of the Joint Cooperation Council

Determined to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of just and lasting peace in the region,

Aware that mutual cooperation is in their interest and of a broader importance,

Prepared to take every necessary step, in their countries and internationally, focused on association with European integrations,

Interested in cooperating with the international community in the reconstruction and development of their countries,

The Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Joint Cooperation Council of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Council) will be established.

Article II

The Joint Council will deal with the promotion, strategic planning and coordination of cooperation as follows:

1. In relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in the following fields:

- Education,
- Science and technology,
- Information,
- Tourism, sports and protection of the environment,
- Welfare,
- Economic relations, and
- Promotion of cooperation between non-governmental organizations.

2. In relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in the following fields:

- Coordination of foreign policy and of appearance with respect to third countries and international organizations,

- Coordination of activities related to association with the European Union, the Council of Europe, Partnership for Peace with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and association with other regional, European and broader associations,

- Coordination of development and of cooperation with the international community in reconstruction and development,

- Military cooperation,

- Dealing with issues related to the succession of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and

- Other matters of common interest to the two States.

Article III

The Joint Council will consist of ten members, five from the Republic of Croatia and five from the Republic and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President of the Joint Council will be the President of the Republic of Croatia Dr. Franjo Tudjman, and the Vice-President will be the President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic.

The parties hereto will appoint the members of the Joint Council within 15 days of the signing of the Agreement.

Article IV

This Agreement has been concluded in six identical copies with the official English translation.

Article V

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of its signing.

Done in Paris, on this 14th day of December 1995.

President
of the Republic of Croatia

Dr. Franjo TUDJMAN

President of the Presidency
of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Alija IZETBEGOVIĆ

President of the Federation
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Krešimir ZUBAK

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Agenda items 116 and 26

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.59/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: M. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 20 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/48) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "The situation in Burundi". The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/50/SR.43).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/50/L.59/Rev.1, an additional appropriation not exceeding $1,872,000 would be required under section 3, Peace-keeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional amount not exceeding $171,000 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th to 7th, 9th, 11th, 25th and 43rd meetings, held on 10-12, 17, 19 and 27 October, 8 November and 20 December 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the discussion of the item and replies to queries raised are reflected in the relevant summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/50/SR.4-7, 9, 11, 25 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences (A/50/32 and Add.1 and 2); 1/

(b) Letters dated 30 August 1995, 19 October and 11 December 1995 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly (A/50/404 and Add.1 and 2);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1996 (A/50/288);

1/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 32 and corrigenda.

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(d) Note by the Secretariat on provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly (A/50/263 and Add.1).

4. At the 25th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the United States introduced a draft resolution entitled "Reduction of paperwork" (A/C.5/50/L.4), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the information presented by the representative of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee in October 1995 on the costs and waste associated with the increasing volume of documentation,

"Recognizing that Member States contribute directly to this volume of documentation through their requests for reports and that they can reduce the costs and waste associated with the production of United Nations documents through increased restraint in making such requests,

"Recognizing also that the increase in the demand for and volume of documentation has had a negative effect on the quality and timeliness of reports,

"Noting that Economic and Social Council decision 1995/222 of 5 May 1995, entitled 'Documentation', requires Secretariat accountability regarding seriously tardy reports,

"Noting also that some actions taken by the Committee on Conferences, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the First Committee of the General Assembly can result in lower documentation costs,

"1. Decides:

(a) That documents originating in the Secretariat for submission to the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies should not exceed sixteen pages in length, except when the Secretary-General certifies that a document represents a special case warranting reporting at greater length, such as a non-recurrent comprehensive report on an issue not routinely addressed, and that the production of addenda to documents should be strictly limited to that which is requested in the legislative mandate;

(b) That documents originating in the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies should not exceed twenty-four pages in length, except when the Secretary-General certifies that a document represents a special case warranting reporting at greater length, such as a non-recurrent comprehensive report on an issue not routinely addressed, and that the production of addenda to documents should be strictly limited to that which is requested in the legislative mandate;

(c) That reports should not include descriptions of the history of the subject that are contained in other documents, but rather make reference to those other documents, and should not include a narrative of substantive discussions;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, in each of the six official languages of the United Nations;

"3. Decides that, should a report normally bound by the six-week rule be issued shortly before or on the same day that the relevant item or segment is to be considered, the officer responsible for the introduction of the report should be accountable to that intergovernmental session, that is, should give the reasons for the delay;

"4. Requests the President of the General Assembly:

(a) To ask all the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly to encourage all members to exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and to consider biennializing or triennializing resolutions that require production of reports;

(b) To encourage all Main Committees to become aware of changes instituted in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Committee on Conferences and the First Committee of the Assembly with regard to reducing documentation costs;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To present oral rather than written reports where appropriate, in particular in the case of progress reports and procedural and organizational issues;

(b) To submit consolidated reports on related topics under a single item or sub-item where appropriate and cost-effective;

(c) To provide an oral estimate of the cost of any document or report requested by Member States when an intergovernmental body adopts a resolution containing such a request;

(d) To seek a more reader-friendly and uniform format of reports similar to that used in the preparation of the fascicles of the report from the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the reports for the sessions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General to take steps to promote expanded use by Member States of optical disk equipment in order to reduce copying and distribution costs;

"7. Endorses the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Joint Inspection Unit conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the publications activity of organizations of the United Nations system, including, inter alia, an analysis of the extent to which publications are used by Member States and the cost-effectiveness with which publications are produced;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to present to it at its fifty-first session an oral report on the savings resulting from these measures."

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. At the 43rd meeting, on 20 December 1995, following informal consultations, the representative of Germany, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/50/L.12).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.12 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. Also at the same meeting, in view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.12, draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.4 was considered withdrawn by its sponsor.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences, 2/

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, 46/190 of 20 December 1991, 47/202 of 22 December 1992, 48/222 of 23 December 1993 and 49/221 of 23 December 1994,

Noting with concern the difficulties confronted by some Member States owing to the lack of conference services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the Committee on Conferences;

2. Approves the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997 as submitted and amended by the Committee on Conferences; 3/

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 32 and addenda (A/50/32 and Add.1 and 2).

3/ Ibid., annex II.

3. Authorizes the Committee on Conferences to make adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

4. Notes that no sessions are scheduled to open or close on 20 February and 29 April 1996, invites United Nations bodies to avoid holding meetings on 20 February and 29 April 1996, and requests the Secretariat to make similar arrangements when drafting the revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997;

5. Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider, as appropriate, the biennialization of meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

6. Invites all bodies to exercise restraint in requesting open-ended ad hoc meetings in view of the possible adverse effect of such meetings on the efficient utilization of conference-servicing resources;

7. Expresses concern that the overall utilization factor for conference services fell below the established benchmark figure of 80 per cent in 1994;

8. Endorses the initiatives taken by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences with a view to assisting bodies to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources and, to that effect, to assess realistically their need for such resources;

9. Requests the Secretariat to take the measures recommended by the Committee on Conferences to enhance utilization of conference-servicing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session through the Committee on Conferences;

10. Expresses concern about the underutilization of conference facilities at duty stations outside Headquarters, and emphasizes the need to make the most effective use possible of such facilities;

11. Requests the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to hold consultations with various bodies and committees to ensure rational allocation and capacity utilization of all United Nations conference facilities at Headquarters, United Nations centres and other duty stations with a view to addressing the present imbalance in order to enhance the capacity utilization and cost-effectiveness of these facilities and to report to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations at its substantive session of 1996;

12. Decides that the headquarters rule shall be adhered to by all bodies, particularly those whose headquarters are underutilized;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, within the resources approved for conference services in the biennium 1996-1997, interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, taking into account the priority due to meetings included in the calendar of conferences and meetings, and to submit a report on

the implementation of this decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session through the Committee on Conferences.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation, including resolutions 33/56 of 14 December 1978, 36/117 B of 10 December 1981, 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, 45/238 B of 21 December 1990, 47/202 B of 22 December 1992, 48/222 B of 23 December 1993 and 49/221 B of 23 December 1994,

Encouraging all bodies entitled to written meeting records to keep under review their need for such records,

1. Decides, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 49/221 B, that the current entitlement to meeting records of the following bodies shall be continued:

(a) United Nations Administrative Tribunal (when holding oral hearings);

(b) First Committee;

(c) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (when holding meetings in observance of international days of solidarity proclaimed by the General Assembly);

(d) Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. Approves the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to replace its verbatim records by summary records; 4/

3. Takes note of the intention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to replace its verbatim records by unedited transcripts, 5/ and requests the Committee to keep the General Assembly informed, through the Committee on Conferences, of the experience of that body regarding unedited transcripts;

4. Takes note of the decision of the Committee on Conferences contained in paragraph 75 of its report, 2/ and requests the Committee to report on the implementation of that decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

4/ A/50/23 (Part I), paras. 56 and 57.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20), para. 180.

C

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the statement made by the representative of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee on 10 October 1995 on, inter alia, the costs of documentation, 6/

Recognizing the right of Member States, through intergovernmental bodies, to request reports,

Recognizing that Member States can contribute directly to the reduction of documentation, which contributes to savings, through restraint in making such requests,

Recognizing also that the reduction in the demand for and volume of documentation could improve the quality and timeliness of reports,

Noting that Economic and Social Council decision 1995/222 of 5 May 1995, entitled "Documentation", requires Secretariat accountability regarding seriously tardy reports,

Noting also that some actions taken by the Committee on Conferences and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can result in lower documentation costs, while also noting that the political and financial impact of such actions has to be assessed by the General Assembly,

Recognizing the right of Member States to request circulation of communications as official documents,

1. Takes note with concern that the existing limits of 32 pages and 24 pages for documents prepared for intergovernmental meetings, confirmed by resolution 36/117 A of 10 December 1981 and endorsed by resolution 38/32 E of 25 November 1983, respectively, are not routinely enforced;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to enforce, where appropriate, the existing page limits referred to in the foregoing paragraph in respect of all documents originating in the Secretariat, to review these limits, where appropriate, with a view to achieving an overall reduction of documentation without affecting its quality and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session through the Committee on Conferences;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to include only where necessary brief descriptions of the history of the subjects contained in the reports together with a reference to relevant documents, bearing in mind the need to restrict the number of pages to the limits referred to in paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

6/ See A/C.5/50/SR.4.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, simultaneously in each of the six official languages of the United Nations;

5. Decides that, should a report be issued late, the reasons for the delay should be indicated when the report is introduced;

6. Requests members of all bodies to exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports;

7. Invites all bodies to consider the possibility of biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports, to review the necessity of all recurrent documents with a view to streamlining documentation and contributing to savings and to make appropriate recommendations;

8. Encourages members of intergovernmental bodies:

(a) To consider the possibility of requesting oral reports, without prejudice to the provision of information to delegations in all the official languages;

(b) To request consolidated reports on related topics under a single item or sub-item where appropriate and cost-effective;

9. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide an oral estimate of the cost of documents or reports requested by Member States, without prejudice to the right of intergovernmental bodies to request such documents or reports;

(b) To seek a more reader-friendly and uniform format of reports, taking into account new publishing technologies, that would include sections containing the objective of the report, an executive summary, the conclusions drawn and, as appropriate, the action proposed to be taken by the body, and to submit proposals thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

10. Endorses the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Joint Inspection Unit be requested to conduct a comprehensive survey of the role publications play in implementing mandates of intergovernmental bodies and the extent to which recurrent publications could be made more cost-effective in this regard; 7/

11. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report on the implementation of these measures, including information on possible savings.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/50/7), para. 83.

D

The General Assembly,

Stressing the need to provide Member States and United Nations bodies, upon request, with more comprehensive and accurate information on the costs of meetings and documentation,

Noting that the introduction of new technologies enhances the quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of conference services,

Stressing the importance of access to and benefit from the optical disk system and other new technologies in all official languages by all Member States and the need to overcome the difficulties faced by some Member States in acquiring the technology to access the optical disk system,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to develop as soon as possible a comprehensive and accurate cost-accounting system for conference services, to report on the progress of its implementation to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences and to report the results of its use to the Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in accordance with their respective mandates;

2. Further encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the cost-effectiveness of document production, without prejudice to the international character of the Organization;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session through the Committee on Conferences on facilitating access by developing countries to the optical disk system in all official languages, taking into account the possible savings from reduced copying and distribution costs;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in pursuing the foregoing efforts, to ensure that new technologies in the area of conference services are introduced in all official languages as soon as possible in a comprehensive manner without adverse effects on the provision of services, in full consultation with Member States and, as appropriate, in coordination with relevant intergovernmental bodies.

E

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the use of languages in the United Nations, including resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2247 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 36/117 B of 10 December 1981 and 47/202 D of 22 December 1992, 49/221 B of 23 December 1994 and 50/11 of 2 November 1995,

Recalling also its request to the Secretariat, contained in resolution 49/221 C of 23 December 1994, to continue exploring ways and means of providing

conference services in a manner that fully responds to the needs of intergovernmental and expert bodies, while ensuring the criteria of quality and timeliness and due respect to the principle of equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations as laid down in General Assembly resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

1. Emphasizes the need for strict compliance with the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations;

2. Stresses the need to continue to ensure the availability of the necessary resources to guarantee the timely translation of documents into the different official and working languages of the Organization and their simultaneous distribution in those languages;

3. Appreciates the fact that, through advanced technology, as well as improved management and increased productivity, the Secretariat has largely been enabled to cope with the growth in demand for translation and documentation services;

4. Notes the actions taken to improve the quality of translation into all official languages, in particular the efforts of the Arabic Translation Service to implement the proposal contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on Conferences to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, 8/ requests the Secretary-General to undertake a thorough review of the terminology and technical methods used in translation into Arabic, and urges the Secretariat to speed up its efforts towards the implementation of phase II of that proposal and to report thereon to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session of 1996.

F

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/221 D of 23 December 1994,

Noting with satisfaction the significant improvements in the meeting arrangements and facilities within the United Nations premises for the holding of bilateral meetings and contacts among Member States during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and during the special commemorative meeting of the Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their prompt and effective actions to implement resolution 49/221 D;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide these improved meeting arrangements and facilities for subsequent sessions of the General Assembly;

8/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/49/32/Rev.1).

3. Decides that such improved meeting arrangements and facilities shall be made available within existing resources.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II recommended by the Third Committee in its report (A/50/816, para. 14)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 18 and 20 December 1995, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/44) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution II, entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/50/816). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/50/SR.42).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.42 and 43).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/50/816), an additional appropriation not to exceed the amount of

;356,600 would be required under section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Such an appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1994 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/50/5/Add.4);

(b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1994 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/50/5/Add.5);

(c) Report of the Board of Auditors on the liquidation audit of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (A/50/943);

(d) Concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in the reports on the audit of the accounts for the financial period ended 31 December 1994 (A/50/327);

(e) Report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (A/50/704 and Add.1);

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(f) Note by the Secretary-General on the implications of extending the term of office of members of the Board of Auditors (A/49/368);

(g) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/50/560).

3. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 21st, 25th, 27th and 44th meetings, on 6, 8, 14 November and 21 December 1995, respectively. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item and the replies to queries raised are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.21, 25, 27 and 44).

4. At the 44th meeting, on 21 December 1995, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, following informal consultations, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/50/L.20) and made a statement.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.20 without a vote (see para. 6).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered, for the year ended 31 December 1994, the financial report and audited financial statements of and the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 1/ the audited financial statements of and the report of the Board of Auditors on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2/ the report on measures taken or to be taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 3/ the concise summary of the principal findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board, 4/ as well as the report on the liquidation

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/50/5/Add.4).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 5E (A/50/5/Add.5).

3/ A/50/704, annex.

4/ A/50/327, annex.

audit of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia 5/ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 6/

Noting the measures taken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to give appropriate consideration and attention to the recommendations in earlier audit reports, as commented upon by the Board of Auditors in the annex to its current report,

Noting with concern the comments of the Board of Auditors regarding measures taken by the Administration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on follow-up action to implement the recommendations of the Board contained in the annex to its current report,

Stressing the importance of efficient resource management in all United Nations organizations and programmes,

1. Recognizes that the Board of Auditors provides objective information, advice and assurance to the General Assembly by conducting its audits in a completely independent and comprehensive manner, as stipulated in regulations 12.5 and 12.6 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, and reiterates its appreciation to the Board for the action-oriented and concrete recommendations contained in its reports;

2. Accepts the financial reports and audited financial statements and the audit opinions and reports of the Board of Auditors regarding the aforementioned organizations and their operation;

3. Also accepts the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations for remedial action of the Board of Auditors and the comments thereon contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

4. Deplores the delays encountered in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors approved by the General Assembly;

5. Urges the Secretary-General to hold programme managers accountable for the implementation of recommendations and to take appropriate measures in cases of non-compliance;

6. Stresses the importance of prompt compliance with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors approved by the General Assembly, and reiterates its request to the executive heads of United Nations organizations and programmes to submit to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, before the beginning of the formal discussions, reports on measures taken or to be taken in response to the recommendations of the Board, including timetables for their implementation;

5/ A/49/943, annex.

6/ A/50/560.

7. Requests the Board of Auditors to follow up and report at the earliest opportunity on shortcomings in the internal audit coverage of the organizations which it identified in its earlier report, 7/ with a view to determining whether its recommendations have been implemented and the situation rectified, following the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

8. Recalls that, in its resolution 49/216 C of 23 December 1994, it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, containing proposals for the improvement of the procurement activities of the Secretariat, and urges the Advisory Committee to submit its report to the General Assembly as soon as possible to enable it to consider the report and decide on further necessary action before the end of its fiftieth session;

9. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other entities for which the main source of income is voluntary contributions and which account for them on an accrual basis to provide annually, or upon request, more precise and transparent information on the cash situation of these entities in their reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-first and subsequent sessions;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to consider measures to ensure appropriate audit coverage of jointly financed administrative activities and to determine the most appropriate way to bring the financial, administrative and managerial information related to these activities to the attention of the General Assembly, and to report thereon to the Assembly during its resumed fiftieth session;

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/216 A of 23 December 1993, especially paragraph 6 thereof, as well as paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/216 C of 23 December 1993,

Reaffirming that the rectification of deficiencies and irregularities identified by the Board of Auditors will enhance the effective exercise of the functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in providing international protection to refugees and strengthen as well its crucial importance in seeking solutions to refugee problems,

1. Expresses serious concern about the findings in the current report of the Board of Auditors on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 8/ especially those concerning management

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7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5 and corrigendum (A/47/5).

8/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 5E (A/50/5/Add.5).

issues, such as the continuing problems of the lack of adequate managerial control over the programmes carried out by implementing partners;

2. Expresses particular concern about the persistent nature of various problems and the non-implementation of the previous recommendations of the Board of Auditors;

3. Requests the High Commissioner for Refugees to implement as a matter of urgency the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, taking into account the views expressed by the Member States and keeping the Board fully informed of the ongoing measures taken, and requests the Board to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

4. Also requests the High Commissioner for Refugees to work out and put in place, as a matter of urgency, procedures enhancing the efficiency of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;

5. Further requests the High Commissioner for Refugees to review with due diligence the content of the audit report, submitted to it before its issuance, in order to ensure the quality of the information issued for the use of the Member States;

6. Notes with appreciation that in the programme of work for 1996 recently adopted by the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for its Standing Committee, the follow-up by the High Commissioner to the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors will be addressed in a systematic manner, in particular regarding issues related to implementing partners;

7. Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations organizations, funds and programmes comply with the common accounting standards approved by the General Assembly and that they address the specific recommendations made by the Board of Auditors in this regard; 9/

8. Requests the High Commissioner for Refugees to amend the term "funds available" in statement II of the audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its annex, 10/ in order to correct the financial information disclosed and to reflect more accurately the financial resources available;

9/ A/49/214, annex.

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 5E (A/50/5/Add.5), chap. III, statement II and annex.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/211 of 23 December 1992 and 48/216 B of 23 December 1993, as well as previous relevant resolutions,

Noting that the responses requested in the aforementioned resolutions have not been received,

Noting with concern the numerous weaknesses highlighted by the Board of Auditors in its report on the liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, especially as far as inventories are concerned, 11/

Deeply concerned by the delays encountered in liquidating the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia,

Bearing in mind that a number of peace-keeping operations are expected to be scaled down and liquidated during the next twelve months,

Noting the observations of the Board of Auditors in its report 12/ that there is at present no policy on the valuation and transfer of costs of assets between missions,

Noting also the absence of standard procedures for the transfer and acknowledgement of assets between missions and United Nations entities,

Noting further that the Board of Auditors has recommended the establishment of appropriate policies and procedures for the valuation, transfer and disposal of assets of missions for consistent application in peace-keeping operations,

1. Notes with regret that the Secretary-General has not yet completed the feasibility study on procedures for the valuation and transfer of costs of assets redeployed from a peace-keeping operation in liquidation to other operations or United Nations bodies, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with all urgency to complete the aforementioned study and submit it to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity during the first part of its resumed fiftieth session;

3. Takes note with concern of the findings of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the need for an additional review as a consequence of the many unresolved administrative and financial issues involved and the incomplete nature of the liquidation documentation available to the Board;

11/ See A/49/943, annex.

12/ Ibid.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to study the most expeditious and cost-effective ways of liquidating peace-keeping operations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, keeping the Board fully informed regarding the measures being taken, and requests the Board of Auditors to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

6. Regrets the absence of a report on measures taken or proposed by the Secretariat in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 1994; 13/

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit such a report, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, before the beginning of its resumed fiftieth session, containing, inter alia, proposals for:

(a) Establishing an appropriate policy for the physical verification of all assets and liabilities of a mission in liquidation before its assets are disposed of and its liabilities changed;

(b) Standard procedures for the transfer of assets and the acknowledgement of assets transferred to other missions and other United Nations entities;

(c) Standard procedures for the valuation of all assets of the mission in liquidation and the establishment of an appropriate policy for the financial accounting of such transfers for consistent application in peace-keeping operations;

8. Appeals to Member States to pay their assessed and pledged contributions as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the completion of the liquidation process;

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/211 of 23 December 1992 and 48/216 B of 23 December 1993, as well as previous relevant resolutions,

1. Regrets the delay in the submission of a report on measures taken or proposed to be taken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 1994;

13/ See A/49/943, annex.

2. Requests the Institute to submit such reports in a timely manner in order to allow Member States to consider them properly before the beginning of the formal discussions during future sessions of the General Assembly.